

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2008, STARTING AT
7.00 P.M. WITH THE OPEN FORUM

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor J A Harding, Chairman

Councillors:

G P Balaam
R F W Brame
T J Jermy
R G Kybird
T J Lamb
D G Mortimer

A Paines
Mrs T I Paines
P J Pearson
M G Spencer
Mrs P A Spencer
S N H Wright

Open Forum

There were no matters raised in the time set aside for the Open Forum.

223/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P J Pearson re-declared the prejudicial interest already declared under agenda item 193/08 at the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th October 2008 (the report of that meeting was subsequently dealt with under item 226/08b below).

Councillor R G Kybird re-declared the prejudicial interest already declared under agenda item 207/08 at the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22nd October 2008 (the report of that meeting was subsequently dealt with under item 226/08d below. He also declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 212/08 from that meeting (relating to the Cottage Hospital petition) owing to his property interests in the immediate vicinity. When a discussion arose in reference to that particular item – again under 226/08d below – he passed initial comment, but then left the Chamber, not contributing further and not participating in the vote on the Council's further response to the petition.

(See also declarations in respect of discussion following on from item 238/08 below.)

224/08 MINUTES

Town Council Meeting: 24th September 2008

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting had been included in the agenda papers. Proposed by Councillor G P Balaam and seconded by Councillor D G Mortimer, it was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th September 2008 be approved and signed/initialled by the Chairman as a true record.

225/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs M P Chapman-Allen, S H Chapman-Allen and Mrs P P Quadling.

226/08 COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Guildhall Committee: 1st October 2008

Proposed by Councillor D G Mortimer and seconded by Councillor P J Pearson, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee, held on 1st October 2008, including the recommendation at minute 191/08, be received and adopted.

b) Planning Committee: 8th October 2008

Proposed by Councillor R G Kybird and seconded by Councillor Mrs P A Spencer, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Planning Committee, held on 8th October 2008, be received and adopted.

c) Markets Committee: 15th October 2008

Proposed by Councillor R F W Brame and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Markets Committee, held on 15th October 2008, be received and adopted.

d) Planning Committee: 22nd October 2008

Minute 212/08: Thetford Cottage Hospital – Receipt of Petition

A proposal was made that the Town Clerk attend the meeting of Breckland Council's Development Control Committee the following week to speak in support of the petitioners and the Thetford Society. There was general agreement that a direct appeal to the Committee would be beneficial.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk attend the meeting referred to.

Following that discussion, the report of the 22nd October meeting was considered. Proposed by Councillor R G Kybird and seconded by Councillor G P Balaam, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Planning Committee, held on 22nd October 2008, be received and adopted.

227/08 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor J A Harding referred to the schedules of Events Attended and Forthcoming Events included in the agenda papers.

He drew particular attention to the efforts of the group of councillors, who had organised the successful series of Band Concerts over the summer months (namely, Councillors Balaam, Mrs Quadling, Mr Spencer and Mrs Spencer).

He also paid tribute to Councillor Mrs Quadling and the members of the Abbey Residents Association, who had worked so hard behind the scenes to put on the *Thetford's Got Talent* event.

He had seen very encouraging signs of improving standards when attending the Prize Giving at Charles Burrell School.

He announced that his Christmas Party would be taking place on the evening of Friday, 12th December, in the Guildhall. Past Mayors would be among those invited.

Events attended since the last meeting

SEPTEMBER

Monday	29 th September	Launch of African History month at the Athenaeum Bury St Edmunds
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OCTOBER

Sunday	5 th October	Cawston Band Concert
Wednesday	8 th October	Admirals Road Junior School EID celebration of Asian Food
Friday	10 th October	Chairman of Suffolk County Council's Reception
Sunday	12 th October	Harvest Festival Service in Bury St Edmunds
Thursday	16 th October	Charles Burrell High School prize giving celebrations
Saturday	25 th October	Judge the final of Thetford's got Talent competition
Monday	27 th October	Launch of the Healthy Living Walks

DEPUTY MAYOR

October

Saturday	25 th October	Rugby Club Vice Presidents lunch
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228/08 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor T J Jermy reported on the obtaining of £24,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots Programme. This would pay for the commissioning of a piece of public art work as a tribute to the work of Charles Burrell. A series of workshops would be taking place, enabling local young people to learn about Charles Burrell and his family. The artwork would be located on a currently derelict piece of land

near to Charles Burrell School, which would be being transformed into a bright and colourful focal point for the community.

Councillor S N H Wright reported on the latest meeting of the Tourism & Heritage Partnership, at which mention had been made of the possible establishment of a local tourism and heritage company.

Councillor Mrs P A Spencer reported on the funding requirements of the Thetford Music Project, which was currently incurring annual expenditure of £16.5k.

RESOLVED to have a discussion item on donations to local organisations at the next Council meeting (scheduled for 26th November 2008).

Councillor R G Kybird reported on the appointment of another Thetford-based representative to the Board of Moving Thetford Forward.

229/08 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

There were no reports.

230/08 RIVER CORRIDOR TASK & FINISH GROUP

Councillor S N H Wright reported on the inaugural meeting of the Group, held on 23rd October 2008, a meeting also attended by Councillor Mrs Chapman-Allen, the Town Clerk and a representative from the Brecks Project.

The aim at this first meeting had been to assess the scope of work set out by Councillor Wright in a paper to highlight the issues identified with regard to the River Corridor. It was envisaged that the Town Council seek to facilitate solutions to the issues identified by working with various partner organisations including the Brecks Project, district and county councils.

Some £100k of Growth Point Green Infrastructure money had been allocated to projects relating to Butten Island and the pathway running from Bridges Walk to Spring Walk. The Brecks Project was preparing project information, which would facilitate this.

Future meetings would be held on a quarterly basis.

It was suggested that the paper referred to above be addressed as an agenda item at the next full Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the Council express its willingness to be the lead organisation, with enquiries to be made regarding the potential availability of an administration fee, payable out of Growth Point funding.

231/08 ST PETER'S CHURCH

After a brief discussion, in the course of which one or two issues of concern were raised, it was:

RESOLVED that a small group be appointed to represent the Town Council's interests in any discussions with the diocesan authority, this group to comprise:

Councillor R F W Brame
Councillor T J Jermy
Councillor R G Kybird
Councillor T J Lamb
Councillor P J Pearson
Councillor S N H Wright

232/08 THE MAKING AND ENFORCEMENT OF BYELAWS: A CONSULTATION

RESOLVED that the following comments be submitted to Department for Communities and Local Government, the comment deadline being Thursday, 20th November 2008:

- Police Community Support Officers looked upon by Thetford Town Council as the most appropriate 'means' of implementing and enforcing byelaws;
- Parish and town councils potentially have the staff resources to assist in the process.

233/08 SEAL REGISTER ENTRIES

RESOLVED that the following be ratified and/or approved:

- a) Register Entry 2/08 relating to the transfer of the Registered Title to the Land Known as Castle Park (incorporating Toilet Block) from Breckland Council to Thetford Town Council, as signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk on 24th September 2008.
- b) Register Entry 3/08 relating to the Dedication Agreement with Norfolk County Council in respect of the Trackway bordering the British Rail Allotment Site: to be signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk following the meeting.

234/08 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THETFORD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CHESS CLUB: LETTER OF THANKS

RESOLVED that the contents of the letter, dated 12th October 2008, received from Mr Wicks, be noted.

235/08 FINANCIAL MATTERS

In light of recommendations received from the Finance & General Purposes Committee, which had met earlier that evening, it was:

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Monthly Financial Report for the Six Months Ending 30th September 2008 be received

- b) one figure in the 2006/7 Annual Return be changed in response to a letter received from the Audit Commission, dated 1st October 2008.
- c) any discussion of the British Legion tenancy be moved 'below the line' (see below following item 238/08)

236/08 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for the remaining items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

237/08 MINUTES

a) Finance & General Purposes Committee: 24th September 2008

Proposed by Councillor R G Kybird and seconded by Councillor P J Pearson, it was:

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, held on 24th September 2008, be received and adopted.

(b) Council Meeting: 24th September 2008

The unconfirmed minutes of those items dealt with following the exclusion of press and public had been included in the agenda papers.

Proposed by Councillor G P Balaam and seconded by Councillor D G Mortimer, it was:

RESOLVED that the minutes from the Council Meeting held on 24th September 2008 of those items dealt with following the exclusion of press and public be approved and signed/initialled by the Chairman as a true record.

238/08 STAFF MATTERS

a) Clothing Allowances

RESOLVED that the annual allowances paid to three members of staff be subject to the following increases.....

Festive Period Working Arrangements

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Additional Discussion
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION TENANCY
(further to item 235/08c above)

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Chairman